

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Current Situation in the APP

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

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SUPPLEMENT

Next Review Date: 2008

ORIGIN

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SOURCE:

I. Dissension in the Party

The present leadership of the Austrian People's Party is the source of a great deal of dissatisfaction to the rank and file and to the opposition leaders within the party. Consequently, both factions look forward eagerly to the party convention, scheduled for the latter part of January, 1947.

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The party workers complain that the choice government positions as well as monopoly of party control have been and are vested in those few who were fortunate enough to be on hand when the party and government were formed in 1945. The lament of APP opposition leaders is that the iron-bound Figli-licher-Graf-Frauland group continually suppresses all capable talent that does not belong to the inner circle. Among these reputedly able and politically disinherited men are: Emil Oswald, Ing. Richard Wolf, Dr. Nechauser, Dr. Krebs, Herbert Braunsteiner, and - now that he is sponsoring the voluntary labor year for youth - probably also Nationalrat Josef Hain.

3. Party Press Censorship

Despite the protest and criticism leveled against the present hierarchy, Edmund Weber, Party Press Chief, has so far allowed no inkling of complaint to reach the constituency through the press. As a consequence, Weber is both feared and disliked. This situation, when coupled with the fact that he is Figl's closest adviser, redounds curiously to the Prime Minister's advantage: Figl's "blunders" are ascribed to Weber, and Figl himself is excused as being the victim of "bad influence."

4. Intrigue among the "Ins"

Behind the scenes in the inner party councils, Minister of Education Felix Burdes has become a target for Weber's political guns. Burdes, who is also Secretary-General of the party, was asked to resign this position when he was appointed to the cabinet. He refused and had his personal friend, F Bock, appointed Acting Secretary-General. Bock, who has been by-passed ever since he acceded to the position, has never been admitted to the Party Directorate (Bundesparteileitung). In fact, Hofrat Burda, a Weber-Figl appointee to the Secretariat of the Bundesparteileitung, has in effect usurped

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the functions of Secretary-General, and will probably obtain the title as well if the Weber-Figl group is successful in its attempts to get Harde to relinquish this post prior to the party convention. Harde is a civil servant, almost entirely unknown to the public. He belongs to the extreme right wing of political thought within the party, and in private conversations with party workers does not hesitate to admit that the Schuschnigg regime is still his ideal.

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